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SANITARY LEGISLATION.

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Sanitary Districts—Organization of. (Act Mar. 12, 1913.)

SECTION 1. Special tax sanitary districts may be formed by the county board of health in any county, without regard to township lines, under the following conditions: Upon a petition of a majority of the freeholders within the proposed special sanitary district, in whose names real estate in such district is listed in the tax lists of the current fiscal year, indorsed by the county board of health, the board of county commissioners, after thirty days' notice at the courthouse door and three public places in the proposed district, shall hold an election to ascertain the will of the people within the proposed special sanitary district, whether there shall be levied in such district a special annual tax of not more than the amount specified in the petition on the one hundred dollars valuation of property and on the poll to conduct the health work of the district as is hereinafter provided, in case such special tax is voted. The board of county commissioners shall appoint a registrar and two poll holders, and shall designate a polling place and order a new registration for such district, and the election shall be held in the district under the law governing general elections, as near as may be, and the registrar and poll holders shall canvass the vote cast and declare the result, and shall duly certify the returns to the board of county commissioners, and the same shall be recorded in the records of said board of commissioners. The expense of holding said election shall be paid out of the general funds of the county. At such election those who are in favor of the levy and collection of the tax shall vote a ticket on which shall be printed or written the words "For special tax," and those who are opposed shall vote a ticket on which shall be printed or written the words "Against special tax." In case a majority of the qualified voters at the election is in favor of the tax, the same shall be annually levied and collected in the manner prescribed for the levy and collection of other taxes.

All moneys levied under the provisions of this section shall, upon collection, be placed to the credit of the health committee or board in such district, which committee shall be appointed by the county board of health, and such health committee shall have the authority to carry on the health work in the district as hereinafter provided. Upon the written request of a majority of the health committee of any special-tax district, the county board of health may enlarge the boundaries of any special-tax district established under this section, so as to include any contiguous territory, and an election in such new territory may be ordered and held in the same manner as prescribed in this section for elections in special-tax districts; and in case a majority of the qualified voters in such new territory shall vote at such election in favor of a special tax of the same rate as that voted and levied in the special-tax district to which said territory is contiguous, then the new territory shall be added to and become a part of the said special-tax district; and in case a majority of the qualified voters shall vote against said tax, the district shall not be enlarged. Upon petition of two-thirds of the qualified voters residing in any special-tax district established under this section, indorsed and approved by the county board of health, the board of county commissioners shall order another election in said district for submitting the question of revoking said tax and abolishing said district, to be held under the provisions prescribed in this section for holding other elections: *Provided*, That no election for revoking a special tax in any special-tax district shall be ordered and held in said district within less

than two years from the date of the election at which the tax was voted and the district established, nor at any time within less than two years after the date of the last election on said question in said district; and no petition revoking such tax shall be approved by the county board of health oftener than once in two years, and if at such election the majority of the qualified voters in said district shall vote "Against special tax," said tax shall be deemed revoked and shall not be levied, and said district shall be discontinued: *Provided further*, That the provisions for ordering a new election to revoke a special tax in any special-tax district shall not apply to elections in such districts for increasing or restoring the special-tax levy in such district, which elections may be ordered and held at any time in accordance with the provisions of this section for establishing new special-tax districts.

SEC. 2. *Qualifications and elections of health committeemen.*—The county board of health of each county shall immediately after the formation of a special-tax sanitary district, and on the first Monday in July of the odd years of the calendar thereafter, appoint in each sanitary district three intelligent men of good business qualifications, who are known to be in favor of public education, who shall serve for two years from the date of their appointment as health or sanitary committeemen in their respective district and until their successors are elected and qualified. If a vacancy shall occur at any time, by death, resignation or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the county board of health to fill such vacancy. Such board shall have the power to pay out of the special-tax fund to each member of the committee thus appointed \$1 per day for not more than six days per annum.

SEC. 3. *To elect chairman and secretary.*—The sanitary committee, as soon as practicable after their election and qualification, not to exceed 20 days, shall meet and elect from their number a chairman and secretary, and shall keep a record of their proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose. The name and address of the chairman and secretary shall be reported to the county health officer and to the State health officer.

SEC. 4. The special-tax sanitary committee shall have the immediate care and responsibility of the health interest of this district. They shall make such rules and regulations, pay such fees and salary, purchase supplies and impose such penalties as in their judgment may be necessary to protect and advance the public health: *Provided*, That no rules or regulations they may promulgate shall conflict with the rules and regulations of the boards of health of the State and county of which the district is a part. The committee shall have authority to employ a registered physician of the State as health officer, and if he should persistently neglect the performance of his full duties for a period of 90 days he may be dismissed by the committee and his successor employed to fill the unexpired term. If the committee is satisfied that the provisions of this act have been complied with they shall give an order approved by the chairman and secretary of the committee on the treasurer of the county payable to the health officer for the full monthly amounts due for services in accordance with the contract, but monthly statements of the work done by the health officer shall be made to the committee; and he shall supply reports promptly of such information as he can on blanks supplied by and returnable to the State board of health. Orders for all funds to the credit of the special-tax sanitary district before it shall be a valid voucher on the county treasurer must be first approved by the chairman and secretary of the committee for the sanitary district.

SEC. 5. The authority and duties of the special-tax sanitary committee shall be the same as those given by the Public Laws of the State to the county board of health in so far as they are applicable to the district.

SEC. 6. The duties and powers of the health officer elected for the special-tax sanitary district shall be the same as those prescribed by the Public Laws of the State for the county health officer, in so far as they are applicable to the sanitary district, and such additional duties as may be imposed on him by the special-tax sanitary committee.